



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana
VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 18 • May 14, 2010



IM Weekly Highlights



- Marty Angeli is the IM's new Communication Systems Planner. He comes to the IM from the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency in Brussels, Belgium where he was involved in project management, acquisitions and planning. Here is his contact information: 406-202-0840; mangeli@interopmtproject.org.
- IM and DES held a meeting with Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal public safety members on May 12.
- Roger Smith and Dale Osborne conducted a successful Fleet Mapping training session May 12-13 in Bozeman.
- Repeaters and antennas have been installed at the Greycliff site in Sweet Grass County.
- A construction company has begun renovation work on the Lost Creek shelter update.
- Mark your calendars to attend the SCIP Update Workshop on Mon., June 7 in Helena.



MT Chapter APCO Meeting in Miles City

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Members of Montana's Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) held a great meeting in Miles City on Fri., April 30. Details of the 2010 APCO conference were discussed. It will take place on Oct. 11-14 in Bozeman. Plans are for two days of Amber Alert training as well as a visit to the Museum of the Rockies the evening of Oct. 12.



Members networked about new technology issues and discussed the 20-year dispatcher retirement legislative initiative, Emergency Medical Dispatch requirements, development of a training video, 9-1-1 telecommunication week activities and the possible development of a Facebook page. Ryan Olson, Third Signal, reported on Flathead County's mobile command center and network redundancy. Members decided to include a technology break-out session at Montana APCO chapter meetings, which will consist of a 20-minute opportunity for a technology

presentation, discussion of technology issues, and/or a question and answer session. Topic suggestions are welcome, and plans are to solicit questions ahead of time.

The next chapter meeting is July 20 in Kalispell and will include a tour of the new Flathead Emergency Communications Center.

IM Finance Committee Reviews Key Elements of Business Plan

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The IM Finance Committee (IMFC) met in Helena on Monday, May 10 to not only conduct regular business, but also to review key elements of the IM Business Plan. Kyle Hilmer, Policy and Planning Bureau Chief, ITSD, provided a written synopsis of recent Funding Sub-Committee decisions regarding the mission, goals and objectives, customers, services, build-out, funding, and governance. Completion of the IM Business Plan and project priorities will not only help with the IM federal appropriations request, but also with grant requests.

Bill Fleiner, Broadwater County, distributed an outline of short-term finance operations, and explained that a description of the statewide project scope is needed. Members were brought up to date on the check account register, the report of different funding sources and a review of how funding is allocated by consortia. The 2011 IM Budget has not yet been finalized due to pending requests to reallocate grant funds to support system operations and maintenance. Members discussed strategies for resolving a budget shortfall. They also discussed methods for bringing the Northern Tier on line and the importance of re-focusing energy and finances to complete projects that have been started.

Kevin Bruski, IM Executive Director, reported on several IM-issued award letters and purchase orders (POs), including trunking radio spare parts along the Northern Tier, the tower at XL Heights, and several PSIC-funded microwave projects with Aviat Networks. Kevin also said that the tower foundation for the Lost Creek site has been completed. The shelter at the VC Pass site has been delivered, but construction on the other Southwest Loop sites is delayed until the sites are accessible.

Mark Canton, Motorola, indicated interest in performing a coverage analysis study to determine if a more accurate final number of sites can be obtained. Larry Irwin, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP), reported on a number of activities that MHP has undertaken to

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support the IM project, including upcoming training assistance. Carl Hotvedt, PSSB Bureau Chief, announced that FEMA is planning a monitoring visit to Montana to audit DES and IM funding.

The date of the next IM Finance Committee meeting will be announced.

IM Governance Committee Learns of IM Presentations

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Members of the IM Governance Committee (IMGC) learned at their Mon., May 10 meeting in Helena that Kevin Bruski and Ian Marquand will be presenters on the May 18 National Association of Counties (NACo)



free webinar on the topic of "Model Practices Engaged by Counties and Cities for Interoperable Communications." Interested persons may register to participate by signing up at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/636022690>.

The webinar take place from 12:00 - 1:30 pm MDT. They also learned that IM First Vice Chair Joe Brenneman, Flathead County Commissioner, will be presenting on the IM Project at the NACo Western Interstate Region Conference in Billings on May 28. For more information, please visit: http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=WIR_New&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&PLID=86&ContentID=29764.

After a review of progress on task items, IMGC members were updated on bylaws and policy development, staff evaluations, upcoming training sessions, and membership user agreements. Kyle Hilmer brought the group up to date on recent decisions made by the Funding Sub-Committee regarding the IM Business Plan. Members held a lively discussion on training issues and cost recovery.

Kevin Bruski, IM Executive Director, reported on plans for an exercise involving the Northern Tier, Central and Tri-County Consortia funded with DHS FY07 grant monies. IMGC Chair Bill Fleiner has volunteered to manage this effort. Bob Murdo, IM Legal Counsel, report that the purchase of the XL Heights site is now complete, and an MOU between the IM and Jefferson County is pending. Also, the IRS has granted the IM its 501-(c)-4 status. Members reviewed a draft that Anderson ZurMuehlen prepared of Form 900, the IM's tax return, which is due next Monday.

Ian Marquand, Public Affairs and Outreach Consultant, gave an account of recent outreach activities, including the *Face the State* television program that aired on April 18 and two news articles that appeared in the Lewistown News Argus and the

Havre Daily News. These are available on the IM Education and Outreach website at: http://interop.mt.gov/im_education_and_outreach.mcp.x.

Plans are in the works for another four-page printed update that will be distributed to key stakeholders, an article for the MACo newsletter, and a June-July outreach tour.

The next IMGC meeting will be in conjunction with the Mon., June 7 Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) one-day Implementation Workshop offered by the Office of Interoperable Emergency Communications (IEC) at the MACo offices, 2715 Skyview Drive, in Helena. The focus of the workshop will be on governance, outreach and funding. IM members who were not able to attend the April IM Strategic Planning Session are urged to attend this session.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Mon., May 17**
IM Funding Sub-Committee
Big Timber • 12:00 pm
Carnegie Library, 314 McLeod Street
- **Tues., May 18**
NACo Webinar - Emergency Interoperability Series
Model Practices Engaged by Counties and Cities for Interoperable Communications
Internet • 12:00 – 1:30 pm MST
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/636022690>
- **Wed., May 19**
Statewide Interoperable Executive Council (SIEC)
Helena • 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 137
- **Thurs., May 20**
I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am – noon
Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Mon., May 24**
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., May 25**
State Agency Radio Users Task Force
Helena • 9:00 am - 11:00 pm
Old Livestock Building, 1310 E. Lockey Ave.
- **Tues., May 25**
NACo Webinar - Emergency Interoperability Series
Grants and Funding for Interoperable Communications
Internet • 12:00 – 1:30 pm MST
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/636022690>
- **Wed.-Thurs., May 26-27**
Code Plug Training Workshop
Great Falls • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
MHP District Office, Old Iron Works Bldg. Complex
812 14th St. North

Note: The HAM will not be published next week because your editor will be attending a conference.